

**Abstract**

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The inventive method makes sure when two networks are coupled that no damage is caused due to inadmissibly high currents or different voltages. To this end, a switch ( $Q_2$ ) is interposed between the operating voltage network (BN) and a connecting terminal (VK), said switch being controlled by a control unit (SE). The switch ( $Q_2$ ) is closed only when the voltage networks are compatible. Once the switch ( $Q_2$ ) is closed, the current ( $I$ ) now flowing is measured. If the value is below a threshold value, the switch is opened. The circuit configuration serves to carry out the method, for example for coupling two vehicles for performing an external jumper operation. In an expedient embodiment, the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) is a relay.